

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01099 261001Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8370
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM LA US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: COUNTRY EVALUATIONFOR LAOS

REF: STATE 169006

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON
LAOS (REFTEL) AND OFFERS FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

2. PAGE 3, PARA 2: CHANGE SENTENCE READING "THERE
HAVE BEEN RARE REPORTS OF TORTURE OR BRUTAL TREAT-
MENT..." TO READ: "THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS OF
TORTURE AND BRUTAL TREATMENT..."

3. PAGE 6, PARA 4, FOLLOWING SENTENCE ENDING "BUT
DISTRIBUTION REMAINUUA PROBLEM.", INSERT: "THIS FOOD
AID HAS NOT MADE UP FOR RICE SHORTFALLS CAUSED BY POOR
1975 AND 1976 HARVESTS. THE LPDR CLAIMED IN JULY 1977
THAT IT WOULD NEED APPROXIMATELY 100,000 TONS OF RICE
BEFORE THE 1977 CROP IS HARVESTED IN NOVEMBER. LAO
SOURCES REPORT CRITICAL RICE SHORTAGES THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY, EVEN IN TRADITIONAL SURPLUS PRODUCTION AREAS
SUCH AS NEAR PAKSE. MOREOVER, SEVERE DROUGHT CONDI-
TIONS HAVE ALREADY DESTROYED MOST OF THE 1977 HIGHLAND
CROP AND UNLESS RICE SEEDLINGS TO REPLACE THOSE
ALREADY DESTROYED ARE OBTAINED SOON THE DROUGHT MAY
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JEOPARDIZE THE 1977 LOWLAND CROP AS WELL."

4. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT, PAGE
9, PARA 2, THAT "IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MUST
RECOGNIZE THAT WE CAN HAVE NO SHORT-TERM EFFECT ON THE
POLITICAL AND PERSONAL FREEDOMS OF THE LAO."

5. WE BELIEVE THAT A REPORT APPEARING IN THE WASHINGTON
POST, JULY 10, PAGE B3, WRITTEN BY JOURNALIST JOHN
EVERINGHAM, WHO WABARECENTLY ARRESTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY
EXPELLED FROM LAOS, WOULD MAKE A USEFUL FOOTNOTE FOR
THE REPORT.
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Message Attributes

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